

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 00538 230442Z
ACTION EA-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2224

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 538

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FOR EA/ANP ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AS
SUBJECT: CORAL SEA CELEBRATIONS (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS
AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN WEEK)

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH THE GOA,
THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, AND CINCPAC, POSSIBILITIES
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN WEEK CELEBRATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE
FIRST TWO WEEKS IN MAY.

2. WITH RESPECT TO MILITARY PARTICIPATION, THE GOA, AT A
RESPECTABLY HIGH LEVEL (NICK PARKINSON, PERMSEC/DFA) HAS EXPRESSED
ENTHUSIASM FOR A VISIT BY THE USS OKLAHOMA CITY (THE U.S.
SEVENTH FLEET FLAGSHIP) WITH COMSEVENTHFLT EMBARKED, AND ONE
ESCORT SHIP. ADMIRAL WEISNER HAS AGREED TO MAKE THESE AVAILABLE
TO US. WE ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF USING THEM TWO DAYS IN
MELBOURNE, THREE DAYS IN SYDNEY, AND TWO DAYS IN HOBART, ADELAIDE,
BUNBURY, AND FREMANTLE/PERTH (THE TWO SHIPS WOULD SPLIT UP
THE PORTS TO BE VISITED. THE ADMIRAL COMMANDING WOULD BE
EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN A SMALL CEREMONY AT THE CENOTAPH IN
SYDNEY WITH A MODEST HONOR GUARD FROM THE FLAGSHIP'S
COMPLEMENT, BUT HE WOULD NOT BE THE FOCAL POINT OF THE
CEREMONIES. THE GOA HAS NO PROBLEMS WITH THIS PART OF THE
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PLAN.

3. THE AMBASSADOR IS TAKING SOME INFORMAL SOUNDINGS
THROUGH HIS OWN CHANNELS ON POSSIBLE "PRESIDENTIAL"
REPRESENTATIVES, SO WHILE NOTHING NEEDS TO BE DONE RIGHT
NOW BY EA/ANP, WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU KNEW THE POT
WAS BEGINNING TO BUBBLE DOWN HERE.

4. DOES ANY OF THIS SUGGEST ANY PROBLEMS FROM
YOUR PERSPECTIVE? ALSTON

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